

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETINGS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE MINK WITH
EC OFFICIALS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 6934; (B) BRUSSELS 6943

1. SUMMARY: DURING COURSE OF VISIT TO BRUSSELS TO ATTEND
THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE 20TH ANNIVERSARY SESSION.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATSY T. MINK HAD OPPORTUNITIES TO
MEET WITH EC OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FISHERIES AND WITH OFFICIALS OF
USEC. THIS CABLE ADDRESSES ITEMS DISCUSSED OTHER THAN
THOSE CONTAINED IN REFTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. CONVERSATIONS WITH
EC COMMISSIONER BRUNNER AND EC DIRECTOR GENERAL SCHUSTER
OF THE RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION DIRECTORATE DEVEL-
OPED A STRONG INTEREST ON PART OF EC IN DEVELOPING
INFORMAL S&T COOPERATION. AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST
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TO THE EC INCLUDE RAW MATERIALS (INCLUDING RECOVERY
PROBLEMS. WASTE RECYCLING AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUBSTITUTES).
CLIMATOLOGY, MEDICAL RESEARCH, OCEANOGRAPHY AND FORECAST-
ING AND ASSESSMENT (BUILDING DATA BANKS. PROJECTIONS.
ETC.). THE EC WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN COOPERATION ON
"HORIZONTAL IDEAS", SUCH AS SCIENCE AND SOCIETY. THE EC
GOAL IS NOT TO REACH CEREMONIAL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. THEY

WANT WELL-PUBLICIZED COOPERATION WHICH COULD ENHANCE US-EC RELATIONS WHILE PRODUCING VALUABLE S&T RESULTS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MINK AGREED TO FORWARD SOME OF THE EC PROPOSALS TO RELEVANT US AGENCIES TO SEE WHETHER A WORKING RELATIONSHIP CAN BE ESTABLISHED. US AND EC PARTICIPANTS ALIKE AGREED THAT RAW MATERIALS IS A PARTICULARLY PROMISING FIELD AND THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MEET TO DISCUSS THE GLOBAL YEAR 2000 REPORT AFTER IT IS PUBLISHED. MRS. MINK AND AMBASSADOR HINTON AGREED THAT THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED WOULD BE FOR MRS. MINK TO DRAFT A LETTER TO SCHUSTER REACTING TO HIS PROPOSALS AND CIRCULATE IT WITHIN THE USG FOR APPROVAL

3. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. IN MEETINGS WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL CARPENTIER AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE EC DIRECTORATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICE, THE CONVERSATIONS FOCUSED ON THE AMOCO CADIZ INCIDENT AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES. ON THE FORMER TOPIC, CARPENTIER EXPRESSED GENERAL INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH THE US ON OIL POLLUTION. TOXIC SUBSTANCES WAS OF GREAT INTEREST TO CARPENTIER AND HIS STAFF. THEY REPEATED THEIR INTEREST IN BILATERAL US/EC NEGOTIATIONS, NOTING THAT AFTER THE COUNCIL ACTS, POSSIBLY ON MAY 30. THEN THEIR EQUIVALENT OF THE TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE IN JANUARY, 1979. THEY WERE DOUBTFUL THAT THE STOCKHOLM MEETING ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES, FOLLOWED A WEEK AND ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HALF LATER BY AN OECD MEETING ON THE SUBJECT, WILL PRODUCE ANYTHING USEFUL BEFORE THE EC AND US REGULATIONS TAKE EFFECT. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE THEY DO NOT OPPOSE THE GOAL OF THE STOCKHOLM AND OECD MEETINGS OF DRAFTING A CONVENTION ON TOXIC SUBSTANCE CONTROL. HE BELIEVES THE US AND THE EC SHOULD REACH AGREEMENT ON WHAT WILL BE COVERED BY THE 1979 REGULATIONS AND HOW EACH OF US CAN ACCOMMODATE TO THEM IN ORDER AVOID POTENTIALLY SERIOUS TRADE PROBLEMS IN 1979. THE PROBLEM OF COORDINATING ANY DECISIONS A POSSIBLE US/EC MEETING MIGHT REACH WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, SUCH AS CANADA AND JAPAN, WAS DISCUSSED BUT NO CONSENSUS DEVELOPED.

4. FISHERIES. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE US COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE EC-CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS ON ATLANTIC SALMON. DIRECTOR GENERAL GALLAGHER OF THE EC FISHERIES DIRECTORATE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THAT A BILATERAL AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED WITH CANADA WOULD SOLVE ALL EC PROBLEMS. SUCH AN AGREEMENT, HE ADDED, WOULD AUTOMATICALLY TAKE CARE OF US INTERESTS. DENMARK IS THE ONLY OBSTACLE TO AGREEMENT WITH CANADA, HE SAID, FOR THE DANES

DO NOT WANT ANY CONTROLS. GALLAGHER SAID THE EC IS
INTERESTED IN AN ANTARCTIC TREATY GOVERNING ALL MARINE
LIVING SPECIES. FRANCE HAS BEEN REPRESENTING THE EC
ON ANTARCTIC NEGOTIATIONS. HINTON

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